

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SS-15

NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 H-01 /064 W

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P R 291503Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 835

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 6553

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PFOR, PINT

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF CARMEN CASTILLO

REFS: SANTIAGO 6540 (NOTAL)

1. GOC RELEASED CARMEN CASTILLO ECHEVERRIA OCT 26; SHE LEFT SANTIAGO THAT DAY FOR PARIS AND THENCE LONDON. HER FATHER, FERNANDO CASTILLO VELASCO, FORMER RECTOR OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, IS TEACHING IN UK. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, SHE HAD ARM IN SLING BUT OTHERWISE SEEMED IN GOOD CONDITION. SHE WAS ACCOMPANIED TO AIRPORT BY CIVIL POLICE; PRESS WAS NOT ALLOWED TO INTERVIEW HER, BUT SHE WAS SEEN OFF BY SMALL GROUP OF RELATIVES.

2. COMMENT. CARMEN CASTILLO IS SEPARATED WIFE OF ANDREES PASCAL ALLENDE, ONE OF FEW SENIOR LEADERS OF EXTREMIST MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) STILL AT LARGE. SHE WAS LIVING WITH MIGUEL ENRIQUEZ, MIR LEADER WHO WAS KILLED IN SHOOTOUT WITH POLICE OCTOBER 5 IN WHICH SHE WAS WOUNDED, AND IS CARRYING HIS CHILD. SHE ALSO WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN MIR ACTIVITIES.

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3. HER RELEASE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED GOC GRANT OF SAFE CONDUCT

FOR HER FIVE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, WHO HAD TAKEN ASYLUM IN ITALIAN EMBASSY (REFTEL). CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL PINOCHET HAD JUST SAID IN SPEECH OCT 24 THAT MIR CONTINUED HOSTILITY TO GOVT, WHICH SHOWED THAT "RECONCILIATION" WAS NOT FEASIBLE POLICY. RELEASE OF CARMEN CASTILLO THUS APPEARS EXCEPTION TO GOC'S GENERAL HARD LINE AGAINST MIR, WHICH IS STILL CAPABLE

OF TERRORIST ACTION. FOLLOWING MAY HAVE MOTIVATED RELEASE:

(1) RELEASE WOULD PLEASE CATHOLIC AND INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES IN CHILE, WITH WHICH HER FAMILY PROMINENTLY IDENTIFIED. EMBASSY CATHOLIC SOURCES HAD SPECULATED THAT SHE MIGHT BE RELEASED.
(2) GOC WAS PROBABLY CONCERNED OVER ITS PUBLIC IMAGE. SIGHT OF HIGHLY PREGNANT WOMAN BEING TRIED, GIVING BIRTH IN CONFINEMENT, AND HAVING TO CARE FOR INFANT UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS WOULD NOT BE AGREEABLE. HER FATE WAS SUBJECT TO COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ABROAD, AND FROM INQUIRY OF CONGRESSMAN HARRINGTON TO DEPT IT APPEARS GOC MAY HAVE BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM DEMOCRATIC SOURCES AS WELL. BRITISH EMBASSY SANTIAGO HAD BEEN UNDER FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO PRESS GOC FOR CASTILLO'S RELEASE.

4. CONGRESSMAN HARRINGTON INTERESTED.
POPPER

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